

COUNTY BOROUGH OF ST. HELENS.



Annual Report
OF THE
School Medical Officer
FOR
1940

FRANK HAUXWELL, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health
and School Medical Officer.

St. Helens:

WOOD, WESTWORTH & Co., LIMITED, PRINTERS AND STATIONERS,
HARDSHAW STREET.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
ST. HELENS EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit herewith my Annual Report as School Medical Officer for the year 1940.

The main effort of the year was directed towards maintaining the service at a pitch comparable with pre-war standards. Following the dislocation caused by the outbreak of war, a gradual return to normality in the work of inspection and treatment was undertaken and largely achieved despite the many heavy calls of Civil Defence duties. The end of the year brought its new problems for the work of school medical inspection with the constant interruptions of air raid warnings, but taken as a whole the year closed with a record of satisfactory achievement.

Despite the most adverse social conditions obtaining during the last four months of the year, particularly in relation to shelter night life and consequent lack of sleep, the health of the children remained very good. Nutritional standards remained good and the findings of Medical Officers at school inspections gave rise to no cause for anxiety on this question. The good work done by the "Milk in Schools" and "School Meals" schemes was largely responsible for this.

Since the outbreak of war there has been no curtailment of any of the treatment facilities, and these were utilised fully during the year. The continued closure of the Open Air School, however, constituted a serious loss in dealing with the delicate child.

For much of the work done I am indebted to Dr. O'Brien, Deputy School Medical Officer, and my especial thanks are due to the late Mr. Lonie, Director of Education, for his cordial co-operation and much valuable assistance. His sudden death recently is a loss we must all deplore. There was no one who had the interests of the school child more at heart, and in him the Service has lost a good friend and an esteemed colleague.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

FRANK HAUXWELL.

November, 1941.

STATISTICAL REVIEW OF WORK OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE
DURING THE YEAR 1940.

Children in Average Attendance at Elementary Schools	14,383
Total Examinations of Elementary School Children	17,781
Total Examinations of Secondary School Children	1,301
Miscellaneous Examinations (Bursars, etc.)	176
Minor Ailments treated	2,550
Visual Defects treated	509
Ear, Throat and Nose Defects treated	511
Children inspected by School Dentists	17,400
Children treated by School Dentists	4,832
Total Attendances at all School Clinics	43,626
Examinations by Nurses for Cleanliness	42,348
Visits to Schools by Medical Officers	381
Visits to Schools by Nurses	4,124
Home Visits by Nurses	7,220
Total Attendances at Inspection Clinic	3,220

STAFF.

School Medical Officer and Medical Officer of Health :—

Frank Hauxwell, M.B., Ch.B. (Glasgow), D.P.H. (Camb.).

Deputy School Medical Officer and Deputy Medical Officer of Health :—

Gerald O'Brien, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (St. Andrew's).

Assistant School Medical Officers and Assistant Medical Officers of Health :—

Enid M. Hughes, M.B., Ch.B. (Liverp.).

Jean M. Barrowman, M.B., Ch.B. (Glasgow).
(Resigned May, 1940).

Ronald G. Smithson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Resigned September, 1940).

Justin F. Martin, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H. (From November, 1940).

Maureen J. Darby, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. (Belfast).

Dental Surgeons :—

Vincent Higham, L.D.S.

Arthur N. Leicester, B.D.S. (on Service with H.M. Forces).

Jean M. Simpkin, L.D.S.

Mary G. Cowper, L.D.S. (Temporary).

Health Visitors and School Nurses :—

Superintendent : M. I. J. Abraham, (2), (3), (4), (6).

Ethel Denman	(1), (5), (6)	Caroline Good	(3), (6)
Mary Riding	(3), (6)	*May Tonge	(2), (3), (6)
Emily Corrish	(3), (6)	Florence Middlehurst	(2), (3), (6)
Nora Hogan	(3), (6)	Sophia M. McConnell	(3), (6)
Mary Corrish	(3), (4), (6)	Elsie Cornish	(2), (3), (6)
Alice Happold	(3), (5), (6)	Margaret A. Brown	(2), (3), (4), (6)
Edith Curran	(3), (6)	Hilda Yorke	(2), (3), (4), (6)
Louisa Peace	(3), (6)		

Pupil Health Visitors :—

Winifred M. Chune	(3), (6)	Eileen Search	(3), (4), (6)
Winifred Henry	(3), (4), (6)	Louie Wright	(3), (4), (6)

Orthopaedic Nurses :

*Winifred M. Russell	(7)	E. M. Riordan	(7)
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School Clinic and Dental Nurses and Attendants :—

Florence Faber	(3), (6)	*Ethel M. K. Elliot	(3)
Florence Wilkinson	(3)	K. G. Hanley	(3), (4)
Phyllis M. Mather	(3)	Elizabeth Howarth	
Mary E. Lenton	(3), (4), (6)	Edna Mather	

(1) Sanitary Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
 (2) New Health Visitor's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
 (3) General Trained Nurse.
 (4) Fever Trained Nurse.
 (5) Children's Trained Nurse.
 (6) State Certified Midwife.
 (7) Certificate of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics.
 * Resigned during the year.

The following are part-time officers :—

E. Allan, M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.), Ophthalmic Surgeon.

J. E. G. McGibbon, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), D.L.O. (Eng.),
 (on service with H.M. Forces), Ear, Throat and Nose
 Surgeon).

W. E. Hunter, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.),
 (Temporary).

T. P. McMurray, M.B., M.Ch., B.A.O., (R.U.I.), F.R.C.S.
 (Edin.), Consulting Orthopaedic Surgeon.

B. L. McFarland, M.D. (Liverp.), M.Ch. (Orth.), M.B., Ch.B.,
 F.R.C.S. (Ed.), Orthopaedic Surgeon.

J. Unsworth, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), Physician to the X-Ray
 Department.

Muriel W. Ferrie, M.S.S.T., Speech Therapist.

MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Elementary Schools.

During the year 1940 there were under the control of the Education Committee 40 Elementary Schools with 79 departments. Particulars as to accommodation and attendances are as follows :—

Number of children for whom accommodation available	...	...	25,116
Average number of children on the roll during the year	...	...	16,339
Average number of children in attendance during the year	...	...	14,383
Percentage attendance for the year	...	...	88.0%

During the year 1940, the scheme of modified school medical inspection, which was adopted to suit conditions following the outbreak of war, was gradually replaced by the normal pre-war scheme of medical inspection.

Owing to the closure of the Infant Departments during 1939, many children had not received the routine medical inspection during that year and these children were included with all new entrants in 1940. For the purpose of this additional work, permission was obtained from the Board of Education for the assistance of an extra Medical Officer over a period of 3 months. By the end of 1940 the work of medical inspection in all Elementary Schools had been completed and was up-to-date.

By the time of issue of Circular 1523 from the Board of Education in August, 1940, the Service was already complying with the conditions outlined therein ; namely, the retention of essential features of school medical inspection during war-time, together with the maintenance of existing follow-up and treatment facilities.

The following statement shows the number of inspections carried out by Medical Officers during the past five years :

	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Routine examinations	6919	5738	5989
Special examinations	6216	6142	5856
Re-examinations	9762	10138	10724
Attendances at Inspection Clinic	4510	4523	4070
					3901
					3220

The detailed figures of the number medically inspected during the year are given in Table I.

Secondary Schools.

The Secondary Schools to which the provisions of the School Medical Service are applicable are the :—

St. Helens Cowley Boys' Secondary School.

St. Helens Cowley Middle School for Girls.

During 1940 it was found impossible to complete the medical inspection in the Secondary Schools during one term. This led to a decrease in the figures for examinations conducted, but as all ages in these schools have an annual routine medical inspection, the elimination of one year's inspection amongst a few ages does not constitute a serious omission.

The following statement shows the work done in the medical inspection of these schools during the past 5 years :

	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Routine examinations	...	894	983	996	1049
Special examinations	...	54	53	163	160
Re-examinations	...	143	120	274	365

The detailed figures of the number of children inspected are given in Table VIII.

FINDINGS OF MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Elementary Schools.

Detailed figures regarding the nutritional condition of the children inspected are given in Table II, and as a contrast the figures for the year 1939 are also shown.

Nutritional Surveys on an extensive scale were not carried out in the schools, the inspections being confined to routine age groups.

From the tabulated figures and allowing for individual variation of grading on the part of the Medical Officers, the position in the town may be termed satisfactory. The maintenance and even betterment of the nutritional standard as a whole was undoubtedly due to the improved financial conditions in many homes. In this connection the decrease in the number of children partaking of school meals is worthy of note.

Details of the Local Authority's schemes for the provision of meals and milk are given in a later section of the report.

Of 5,122 children examined at the routine medical inspections during 1940, 743 (14.5%) were found to be suffering from defects (other than uncleanliness, defective clothing or footgear, and dental defects), which required treatment, and 1,363 (26.6%) from defects requiring to be kept under observation.

During the past five years the corresponding percentages have been :

	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Referred for treatment	16.4%	16.6%	9.1%	12.0%	14.5%
Referred for observation	18.9%	17.7%	26.6%	30.7%	26.6%
Total	35.3%	34.3%	35.7%	42.7%	41.1%

The increase in the number of children requiring treatment and observation consisted mainly of an increased number of cases of enlarged tonsils and adenoids and also cases of enlarged cervical glands. As will be noticed later in the report, this caused a great increase in the work done at the Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic.

The percentage of children found verminous in 1940 was 2.50%. The corresponding figure for 1939 was 2.55%. In no instance was compulsory cleansing necessary.

The percentage of children found at routine inspections with defective clothing was 1.84% in 1940 as compared with 2.39% in 1939 ; whilst the percentage with defective footwear was 2.75% compared with 0.93% in the preceding year.

There was a great increase in the number of cases of scabies discovered during medical inspections and at the Inspection Clinic. An indication of how this disease is becoming more common is shown by the following figures, which give the number of cases of scabies discovered during medical inspections during the past 5 years :

	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
No. of cases of scabies	32	30	37	59	147

As far as possible all cases of scabies are referred for out-patient treatment at the Isolation Hospital, Peasley Cross.

Re-examinations : The following table gives the number of re-examinations carried out by medical officers during the year, and the results found at these re-examinations.

Number of children re-examined	...	...	...	...	4,759
Total re-examinations	...	...	...	...	7,484
Number found remedied	...	...	...	...	788 (10.53%)
Number found improved	...	...	...	...	4,795 (64.07%)
Number found stationary	...	...	...	...	1,759 (23.50%)
Number found retrograde	...	...	...	...	142 (1.90%)

Secondary Schools.

At the Secondary Schools 892 children were examined at the routine inspections. Of these 51 (5.72%) had defects (other than uncleanliness, defective clothing or footwear, or dental defects), requiring treatment, and 318 (35.65%) defects which required to be kept under observation. The corresponding percentages for 1939 were 7.44% and 35.75%.

In addition to the routine inspections 150 special cases were examined and 259 children previously found defective were re-examined.

MEDICAL TREATMENT.

Elementary Schools.

There was no curtailment of the range of treatment services during the year 1940, and despite changes in personnel, the Medical and Nursing staffs remained at pre-war strength.

In the last 4 months of the year, however, attendances at clinics for the purpose of treatment were greatly affected by the frequency of daytime 'alerts' and the early black-out, which prevented attendances after school closing hours. That despite these difficulties so much work was actually accomplished is very satisfactory.

Table IV gives in detail and Table VII in summary the treatment obtained for the various defects referred for treatment during 1940.

Secondary Schools.

The detailed figures regarding the defects treated are given in Table XI, and a summary of the treatment obtained is shown in Table XIV.

Of the 129 children referred for treatment for medical defects during the year, 115 (89.15%) were treated before the end of the year, and of 655 children referred for dental treatment 464 (70.84%) were treated. The corresponding figures for 1939 were 80.42% and 68.83%.

Approximately 50.1% of the defects treated were treated under the schemes of the Local Authority.

Provision of Treatment.

The total number of defects treated at the various clinics during the past five years is shown in the following statement.

	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Minor Ailments	3,653	3,646	3,282	2,919	2,550
Visual Defects	807	723	558	578	509
Defects of Throat and Nose	396	413	304	183	511
Dental Defects	8,460	7,758	6,436	6,147	4,975
Crippling Defects	415	536	601	504	430
Other Defects	1,236	1,126	714	1,082	1,245
Total number of defects treated	14,967	14,202	11,895	11,413	10,220
Total attendances	60,989	62,124	61,066	53,439	43,626

As may be seen from the above table the work done by the various clinics was very satisfactory considering the abnormal conditions, although the effect of the latter is reflected in the lowering of the clinic attendance rates.

District clinics were similarly affected by abnormal conditions of interruptions during school working hours, and although maintaining a high rate of treatment showed a decrease in total attendances.

At district minor ailments clinics 1,116 children made 14,780 attendances during 1940, and at the district dental clinics 895 children made 1,441 attendances.

Operative treatment of tonsils and adenoids and cases of squint continued to be carried out. During the year 381 children were operated on for the removal of tonsils and adenoids, and 5 straightening operations were performed for squint.

The following table shows the work carried out at or in connection with the Ophthalmic Clinic during the past five years.

	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Cases for refraction	814	723	558	578	509
Cases glassed	701	581	472	405	205
Cases not glassed	113	142	86	173	304
Old cases reviewed	994	901	723	602	499
Cases referred for observation	—	—	6	1	8
External eye diseases	9	29	17	3	13
Operations	21	40	11	10	5
Total attendances	1,780	1,549	1,304	1,190	1,249

Comment must be made of the work done at the Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic, which not only reached a pre-war figure, but greatly increased in the number treated during 1940. This Clinic has grown in scope year by year and has proved the need for its establishment by the ever increasing sphere of work carried out.

During 1940 weekly consultant sessions at the Clinic were conducted by Mr. Hunter, the acting Consultant Surgeon, to whom I am obliged for the following report on the work carried out during the year :—

“ The Department has been fully occupied owing to an accumulation of cases when there was no visiting Surgeon for some weeks after the war started. A number of children who had been attending for some years, suffering from chronic disease of the ear and nose, have been discharged by eradicating the causative factor and regular treatment at the Clinic. Every effort is made to cure chronic aural disease by regular cleansing,

removal of the tonsils and adenoids, and nasal infection before condemning a child to a radical operation on the ear and the consequent severe loss of hearing.

“A number of children with enlarged tonsils who had been under observation for two or three years, were referred to the Clinic for special examination. Some of these were found to be suffering from some impairment of hearing. All cases of chronic tonsillitis should have the ears and nose examined. Chronic rhinitis is very prevalent in St. Helens and very many of the children referred to the Clinic are found to be suffering from this. In my opinion it is due to the ignorance of nasal hygiene ; very few of the younger children have any idea how to blow the nose. If “handkerchief drill” could be carried out at the start of the physical exercises at school I am confident a great improvement would be effected.

“I wish to draw your attention to :—

1. The difficulty of diagnosing small degrees of deafness without an audiometer and a quiet room. The extraneous noises at the Clinic make an accurate hearing test difficult.
2. The difficulty in obtaining regular attendance at the Clinic of cases of ear and nose disease for treatment by the Clinic Nurse.

“My thanks are due to the Medical Officers for their help and co-operation ; Mr. Hutton, the Dispenser, and to Nurse Lenton for her excellent attention to the cases referred to her for daily treatment.”

The war-time expedient of regionalising the Speech Defect Clinic in three separate Centres was continued during the year. Weekly clinics were held in each Centre by the Speech Therapist, and I am indebted to Miss M. W. Ferrie for the following report on the work carried out :—

“Time spent in shelters, non-attendance of children during ‘alert’ periods, and the altered school hours, all had some effect on the work of the Speech Clinic, but on the whole

the work progressed quite well. One of the greatest drawbacks is the lack of space available at one of the three Centres, and the fact that one cannot have all equipment in triplicate. However, the difficulty affords an opportunity of trying out other methods of treatment, particularly in the case of stammering.

“With the exception of about 3 cases, the stammerers are not showing much increase in nervous tension, and comparatively few, if any, of the Speech Disorder cases are losing sleep or rest at nights.

“Several children who were attending the Open Air School, and several others who were recommended for admission to that School show definite signs of the lack of the therapeutic facilities afforded to them by attendance there.

“A summary of the cases dealt with during 1940 is given below. The term “Discharged, speech satisfactory,” is used in preference to “Discharged—Cured,” because ‘cured’ suggests a permanency which is very difficult to guarantee in cases of stammering, particularly in time of war. Before a child is graded as “Speech satisfactory,” a home and school report is obtained and the child has to satisfy the doctor both in reading and conversation.

“Where ‘Discharged—speech much improved’ is used, it implies that speech is as good as is possible for that particular individual because of some physical, mental or environment factors operating in the case.

	UNDER TREATMENT				UNDER SUPERVISION		
	Stammer	Dyslalia	Cleft Palate	Dysphonia	Stammer	Dyslalia	TOTAL
Discharged—							
Speech satisfactory	5	4	—	1	3	3	16
Much improved	4	2	—	—	2	3	11
Left school, much improved	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Not suitable	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
Irregular attendance	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Treatment not carried out	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Still attending—improving	11	8	5	—	—	—	24
I.S.Q.	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
	28	16	5	3	5	7	64

"As usual all the schools of children attending the Speech Clinic were visited during the year, as well as many of the homes.

"The continued interest and co-operation of head teachers and teachers is greatly valued."

Part of the cost of treatment provided at these various Clinics is recovered from the parents in accordance with the family circumstances. During the year ended 31st December, 1940, parents paid £193/3/0.

The question of special provision for the specially defective child is dealt with under the headings dealing with exceptional children.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

I am indebted to Mr. V. Higham, Senior Dental Surgeon, for the following notes on the work of the School Dental Department.

"The year 1940 was notable for a series of interruptions and changes. One male Assistant Dental Surgeon was called up for war service at the end of July, and the Dental Nurse relinquished her post at the end of October. These changes in the staff, together with alterations in school hours and dislocation in school work due to frequent 'alerts' had their influence on the work of the department.

"In the elementary schools, 16,157 children were inspected and 9,622 (59%) required treatment. Of these, 4,625 were treated (48%), and 3,448 were discharged cured. The corresponding percentages in 1939 were 60% requiring treatment, and 63% treated. The fall in the proportion of children treated may be attributed, in some degree, to the interruptions already referred to, but it is feared that it is also in some measure due to apathy on the part of the parents owing to war-time conditions.

“ Cowley Secondary Schools were inspected twice during the year, and there was an increase in the number of requests for clinical treatment. 207 children made 498 attendances, and 169 were discharged cured. 312 fillings were inserted and extractions totalled 260. 62 sessions were devoted to this work, compared with 34 during 1939.”

FOLLOWING-UP AND WORK OF SCHOOL NURSES.

The following figures show the work carried out by the School Nurses during the year. This work also suffered because of the unsettled conditions. Wasted sessions were frequent owing to the stoppage of work in schools during ‘alerts,’ and this was reflected by a drop in the figures regarding the work carried out during school sessions :—

1. Number of visits to schools for general supervisory purposes and for medical and verminous inspections	4,124
2. Number of examinations of children for cleanliness	42,348
3. Number of visits paid to the homes of children in following up defects, investigating cases of infectious disease, investigating cases referred by the School Attendance Department, etc.	7,220

In addition to the work of the nurses referred to above, special nurses are employed, at the School Clinic and District Clinics, who are wholly engaged treating or assisting in the treatment of various defects.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The number of cases of the principal infectious diseases occurring amongst school children is shown in the following table, which also gives the corresponding figures since 1936.

			1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Scarlet Fever	...	...	394	488	396	639	123
Diphtheria	...	...	368	325	311	324	176
Measles	...	...	709	529	808	125	1460
German Measles	...	...	22	13	26	122	834
Whooping Cough	...	...	28	357	188	141	163
Chicken Pox	...	...	226	501	246	320	103
Mumps	...	...	96	99	377	17	11

Having regard to the extremely inclement weather in the first 4 months of the year and the abnormal conditions of school life in the last 4 months, it is a matter for congratulation that the position with regard to infectious disease remained satisfactory, particularly in the case of the major epidemic diseases. The notable exception was Measles, and the number of cases of this disease, as also the milder German Measles, was extraordinarily high. School attendances were markedly affected by the incidence of these infections, both of which reached their peak in the middle of the year. There was a tendency towards lessened incidence at the close of the year, particularly marked in the case of German Measles.

The position regarding Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria is very satisfactory and the incidence of both these diseases was lower than for many years.

During the year the percentage attendance fell below 60% in six departments, owing to epidemic sickness. This occurred in June, July and December, when attendances were affected for a period of six weeks due to measles and whooping cough.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During 1940 the number of notifications received in respect of school children was 6 for the pulmonary and 20 for the non-pulmonary type of the disease. This was an increase in both forms of the disease compared with the previous year. At the end

of 1940 there were in St. Helens 125 children of school age suffering from tuberculosis. These may be classified from the point of view of localisation of the disease as follows :—

Pulmonary .....	.....	.....	23
Non-pulmonary—			
Bones and joints .....	.....	.....	22
Peripheral glands .....	.....	.....	55
Abdominal .....	.....	.....	23
Skin and others .....	.....	.....	2
<hr/>			
			125
<hr/>			

Many of the cases were quiescent and only 26 non-pulmonary cases (i.e. 20.8%) and 5 pulmonary cases (4.0%) were found to require active treatment.

Out-patient treatment for children suffering from tuberculous disease of bones or joints is provided at the Council's Orthopaedic Clinic, where 22 children made 45 attendances to see the Orthopaedic Surgeon, and 48 attendances for supervision and treatment by the Orthopaedic Nurse. The latter also paid 220 supervisory home visits during the year. In addition, 20 children suffering from lupus or tuberculous adenitis made 198 attendances at the Tuberculosis Dispensary for X-ray therapy. One child with lupus of the face attended the Belmont Road Hospital, Liverpool, by arrangement with the Liverpool Public Health Department, for intensive ultra violet light treatment.

During 1940, 16 children spent an aggregate of 3,066 days in Eccleston Hall Sanatorium. These children received tuition at the special school attached to the Sanatorium, the average daily attendance being 10 and the average number of days each child attended 117. In addition, 4 children spent an aggregate of 1,427 days in the Leasowe Open Air Hospital for Children.

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN.

Crippled Children.

At the end of 1940 there were in St. Helens 36 children of school age in whom the crippling was sufficiently severe to interfere with a normal mode of life.

The following Table shows the number of severely crippled children in St. Helens at the end of each year since 1936 and the causes of the crippling.

	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
Tuberculosis	4	7	11	3	4
Infantile Paralysis	17	17	15	17	13
Other forms of Paralysis	13	11	10	6	6
Congenital Deformities	3	4	11	8	7
Rickets	4	2	2	2	2
Arthritis	3	2	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	8	5	5	6	4
	52	48	54	42	36

Of the 36 children known at the end of 1940, 24 were attending Public Elementary Schools, 2 were at Special Schools, 5 were in Institutions and 5 were at no school or institution.

There are, however, many other children with lesser degrees of crippling, so that excluding tuberculous cases which are dealt with under Tuberculosis, the number on the register of the Orthopaedic Clinic was much higher, there being 430 cases suffering from the following defects on that register during the year :

Infantile paralysis	44
Other forms of paralysis	28
Congenital deformities	59
Rickets	40
Traumatism	6
Acquired foot deformities	96
Postural defects	113
Other acquired deformities	30
Arthritis	2
Miscellaneous	12
	430

The treatment provided for crippled children involved 719 attendances for consultation or treatment by the Orthopaedic Surgeon, 3,094 attendances for intermediate treatment by the nurse and 125 home visits by the nurse for purposes of supervision. In addition, 24 cases received surgical or other hospital treatment for an aggregate of 2048 days.

In addition to the crippled children there are in St. Helens 13 children with heart disease of such severity that they are physically crippled. 7 of these attend public elementary schools, 1 is at a certified special school, and 5 are at no school.

Delicate Children.

The Hamblett Open Air School for the treatment of delicate children remained closed during 1940. The services of the school nurse were utilised in school and home visiting of cases previously in attendance at the Open Air School, and special measures were adopted to ensure that these children received milk and meals at their Elementary Schools. As far as possible these children were also kept under constant supervision at the Inspection Clinics during the year. Treatment at the Southport Convalescent Home was obtained for many during the summer.

Towards the end of the year measures were placed before the appropriate Committee for the re-opening of the School early in 1941.

Blind, Deaf and Epileptic Children.

The total number of these children is given in Table III. During the year 1 blind child was sent to a special residential school, and the Local Authority is at present maintaining 2 epileptic, 7 blind, and 9 deaf and dumb children in special schools.

Mentally Defective Children.

There are at present 23 feeble-minded but educable children of school age in St. Helens, but only 10 of these are at special schools. Of the remainder, 9 attend ordinary classes in the public elementary schools and 4 are at no school or institution.

During the year 2 ineducable mental defectives, 1 boy and 1 girl, were notified to the Local Control Authority.

Arrangements are still in force with the Liverpool and District Child Guidance Council and Clinic for the reference to them for report on and, if necessary, supervision of, "difficult" children, i.e., those presenting psychological problems as distinct from mental deficiency. This has been found of great assistance during the year.

After Care and Vocational Training.

During 1940, 1 blind man and 1 deaf girl returned home on completing their education in special schools. The blind man is now employed at the St. Helens Workshops for the Blind, and the deaf girl is employed in the laundry of a convalescent home.

NURSERY CLASSES.

During 1940 the Nursery Classes existing in the 21 infants' departments of the Elementary Schools of the town remained closed.

As a substitute to the Nursery Classes efforts were made to obtain the attendance of these children at the Toddlers' Clinics conducted under the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme. At these Clinics regular medical inspection and supervision was carried out, but unfortunately the response on the part of the parents was not enthusiastic so that much of the supervision was limited to home visiting by Health Visitors. Apart from the question of medical supervision these children also lose, by closure of the Nursery Classes, that regulated balance of rest and play which is so beneficial to them at these ages.

PROVISION OF MEALS.

The Local Authority's provision of meals and milk for under-nourished children functioned normally throughout 1940. The total number of meals served during the year was 402,197, of which 379,421 were provided free. The total number of individual children receiving meals was 1,273, which was a decrease of 505 on the figure for 1939. This decrease can be attributed to the better employment of parents, with consequent improved conditions for the children in the home.

The total number of individual children receiving fresh bottled milk was 11,164, and of this number 2,329 were provided free.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

FOR THE YEAR 1940.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS—Tables I to VII.

TABLE I.

RETURN OF MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

A—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups :

Entrants .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1687
Second Age Group .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1683
Third Age Group .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1635
Number of other Routine Inspections (Children under 5 years, other than entrants)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	117
Total .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5122

B—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5175
Number of Re-Inspections .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7484
Total .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12659

TABLE II.

Classification of the Nutrition of Children inspected during the year in the Routine Age Groups.

Age-Groups	Number of Children inspected	A (excellent)		B (Normal)		C (Slightly Sub-Normal)		D (Bad)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1939									
Entrants	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Second Age Group	1445	113	7.82	1152	79.72	173	11.97	7	0.49
Third Age Group	1755	61	3.48	1506	85.81	165	9.40	23	1.31
Other Routine Inspections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	3200	174	5.44	2658	83.06	338	10.56	30	0.94
1940									
Entrants (1939-1940)	1687	234	13.87	1290	76.47	154	9.13	9	0.53
Second Age Group	1683	181	10.76	1324	78.67	166	9.86	12	0.71
Third Age Group	1635	123	7.52	1400	85.63	108	6.61	4	0.24
Other Routine Inspections	117	7	5.98	102	87.18	8	6.84	—	—
TOTAL	5122	545	10.64	4116	80.36	436	8.51	25	0.49

TABLE III.

Return of all Exceptional Children in the Area on the 31st December, 1940.

BLIND CHILDREN.

(Children who are so blind that they can only be appropriately taught in a school for blind children).

At Certified Schools for the Blind	At Public Elementary Schools	At other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
7	—	—	1	8

PARTIALLY SIGHTED CHILDREN.

(Children who, though they cannot read ordinary school books or cannot read them (even with suitable glasses) without injury to their eyesight, have such power of vision that they can appropriately be taught in a school for the partially blind).

At Certified Schools for the Blind	At Certified Schools for the Partially Blind	At Public Elementary Schools	At other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
—	—	5	1	1	7

DEAF CHILDREN.

(Children who are too deaf to be taught in a class of hearing children in an elementary school, and are so deaf that they can only be appropriately taught in a school for the deaf).

At Certified Schools for the Deaf	At Public Elementary Schools	At other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
9	2	—	—	11

PARTIALLY DEAF CHILDREN.

(Children who can be appropriately taught in a school for the partially deaf).

At Certified Schools for the Deaf	At Certified Schools for the partially deaf	At Public Elementary Schools	At other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
—	—	1	—	—	1

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

(Children (excluding children notified to the Local Authority under the Mental Deficiency Act) who, not being imbecile and not being merely dull or backward, are incapable by reason of mental defect of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in the ordinary Public Elementary Schools but are not incapable by reason of that defect of receiving benefit from instruction in Special Schools for mentally defective children).

At Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children	At Public Elementary Schools	At other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
10	9	—	4	23

EPILEPTIC CHILDREN.

(Children suffering from Severe Epilepsy, who, not being idiots or imbeciles are unfit by reason of severe epilepsy to attend the ordinary Public Elementary Schools).

At Certified Special Schools	At Public Elementary Schools	At other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
2	2	—	1	5

PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

A.—TUBERCULOUS CHILDREN.

(Children diagnosed as tuberculous **and requiring treatment for tuberculosis** at a sanatorium, a dispensary, or elsewhere).

I.—Children Suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis. (including pleura and intra-thoracic glands)

At Certified Special Schools	At Public Elementary Schools	At other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
—	—	2	1	3

II.—Children Suffering from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

At Certified Special Schools	At Public Elementary Schools	At other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
4	7	*4	1	16

* At Eccleston Hall Sanatorium School.

B.—DELICATE CHILDREN.

(Children (except those included in other groups) whose general health renders it desirable that they should be specially selected for admission to an Open Air School).

At Certified Special Schools	At Public Elementary Schools	At other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
—	230	—	1	231

C.—CRIPPLED CHILDREN.

(Children (other than those diagnosed as tuberculous and in need of treatment for that disease) suffering from a degree of crippling sufficiently severe to interfere materially with a child's normal mode of life).

At Certified Special Schools	At Public Elementary Schools	At other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
2	24	5	5	36

D.—CHILDREN WITH HEART DISEASE.

(Children whose defect is so severe as to necessitate the provision of educational facilities other than those of the Public Elementary School).

At Certified Special Schools	At Public Elementary Schools	At other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
1	7	—	5	13

CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM MULTIPLE DEFECTS.

(Children suffering from any combination of the following types of defect:—Blindness (not Partial Blindness), Deafness (not Partial Deafness), Mental Defect, Epilepsy, Active Tuberculosis, Crippling (as defined in Section C. of this Table), Heart Disease).

Combination of Defect	At Certified Special Schools	At Public Elementary Schools	At Other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
Blind and Deaf	1	—	—	—	1
Blind, Crippled and Feeble-minded	—	—	—	2	2
Feeble-minded and Epilepsy.....	1	1	—	1	3
Feeble-minded and Crippled	—	—	—	1	1
Blind and Epilepsy	—	—	—	1	1
T.B. and Heart	—	1	—	—	1
Total	2	2	—	5	9

TABLE IV.

Return of Defects Treated during the Year ended 31st December, 1940.

TREATMENT TABLE.

Group I.—Minor Ailments (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Table VI).

DISEASE OR DEFECT	Number of Defects referred for Treatment	Number of Defects treated, or under treatment, during the year.		
		Under the Authority's Scheme	Otherwise	Total
SKIN—Ringworm, Scalp—				
(i) X-Ray Treatment...	...	—	—	—
(ii) Others	1	1
Ringworm, Body	6	6
Scabies	131	116
Impetigo	974	941
Other skin disease	195	181
MINOR EYE DEFECTS— (External and other, but excluding cases falling in Group II)	...	326	273	47
MINOR EAR DEFECTS	...	308	283	22
MISCELLANEOUS— (e.g., minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.)	...	767	742	14
Total	...	2708	2543	142
				2685

Group II.—Defective Vision and Squint (excluding Minor Eye Defects treated as Minor Ailments—Group I).

DEFECT OR DISEASE	Number of Defects referred for Treatment	No. OF DEFECTS DEALT WITH.		
		Under the Authority's Scheme.	Submitted to refraction by private practitioner or at Hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise
Errors of Refraction (including Squint)	565	454	30	12
Other Defect or Disease of the Eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I)	—	—	—	—
Total	565	454	30	12
				496

Total number of children for whom spectacles were prescribed—

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	...	181
(b) Otherwise	...	...	...	...	...	...	15

Total number of children who obtained or received spectacles—

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	...	181
(b) Otherwise	...	...	...	...	...	...	15

Group III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

Referred for treatment	Number of Defects.												Total number treated	
	Received Operative Treatment.				By Private Practitioner or Hospital apart from the Authority's Scheme				Total					
	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)		
692	—	10	323	36	17	—	24	7	17	10	347	43	158	575

- (i) Tonsils only.
- (ii) Adenoids only.
- (iii) Tonsils and adenoids.
- (iv) Other defects of the nose and throat.

Group IV.—Orthopaedic and Postural Defects.

Number of children treated.						Total number treated	
Under the Authority's Scheme			Otherwise				
Residential treatment with education	Residential treatment without education	Non- residential treatment at an orthopaedic clinic	Residential treatment with education	Residential treatment without education	Non- residential treatment at an orthopaedic clinic		
21	8	405	—	—	17	427	

TABLE V.
Dental Inspection and Treatment.

(1) Number of Children who were :—		(2) Half-days devoted to :—																											
(a) Inspected by the Dentist :																													
Aged :	<table style="margin-left: 20px; border-left: 1px solid black; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>4—</td><td>147</td></tr> <tr><td>5—</td><td>1976</td></tr> <tr><td>6—</td><td>1655</td></tr> <tr><td>7—</td><td>1698</td></tr> <tr><td>8—</td><td>1734</td></tr> <tr><td>9—</td><td>1771</td></tr> <tr><td>10—</td><td>1724</td></tr> <tr><td>11—</td><td>1703</td></tr> <tr><td>12—</td><td>1653</td></tr> <tr><td>13—</td><td>1583</td></tr> <tr><td>14—</td><td>301</td></tr> <tr><td>15—</td><td>65</td></tr> <tr><td>16—</td><td>8</td></tr> </table>	4—	147	5—	1976	6—	1655	7—	1698	8—	1734	9—	1771	10—	1724	11—	1703	12—	1653	13—	1583	14—	301	15—	65	16—	8	Inspection	178
4—	147																												
5—	1976																												
6—	1655																												
7—	1698																												
8—	1734																												
9—	1771																												
10—	1724																												
11—	1703																												
12—	1653																												
13—	1583																												
14—	301																												
15—	65																												
16—	8																												
Routine		Treatment	1018																										
Age			1196																										
Groups		Total																											
			7838																										
		(4) Fillings :—																											
		Permanent teeth	3452																										
		Temporary teeth	20																										
		Total	3472																										
		(5) Extractions :—																											
		Permanent teeth	2408																										
		Temporary teeth	8397																										
		Total	10805																										
		(6) Administrations of general anaesthetics for extractions																											
			1453																										
		(7) Other Operations :—																											
		Permanent teeth	341																										
		Temporary teeth	16																										
		Total	357																										
(b) Found to require treatment		9622																											
(c) Actually treated		4625																											

Note :—In addition to the above inspections, 9335 children were re-inspected during the year.

TABLE VI.
Uncleanliness and Verminous Conditions.

(i.) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses	52
(ii.) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses	41607
(iii.) Number of individual children found unclean	1039
(iv.) Number of children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority	—
(v.) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :	
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	—
(b) Under School Attendance Byelaws	—

TABLE VII.
Summary of Treatment of Defects.

DISEASE OR DEFECT	REFERRED FOR TREATMENT	NUMBER OF DEFECTS			TOTAL	
		TREATED		OTHERWISE		
		UNDER LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY'S SCHEME	OTHERWISE			
Minor Ailments ...	2708	2543	142		2685	
Visual Defects ...	565	454	42		496	
Defects of Throat and Nose ...	692	496	79		575	
Dental Defects	9622	4725	176		4901	
	131	41	24		65	
Other Defects ...	1512	1348	113		1461	
Total	15230	9607	576		10183	

SECONDARY SCHOOLS—Tables VIII to XIV.

TABLE VIII.

RETURN OF MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

A—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of Inspections—

Age	4	—	4	Age	12	—	107
	5	—	25		13	—	137
	6	—	19		14	—	179
	7	—	27		15	—	128
	8	—	24		16	—	59
	9	—	36		17	—	32
	10	—	22		18	—	3
	11	—	90		19	—	—
							—
				Total	...		892
							—

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	150
Number of Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	259
								—
							Total	409
								—

C.—CHILDREN FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT.

Number of *individual children* found at *Routine* Medical Inspection to Require Treatment (excluding Defects of Nutrition, Uncleanliness and Dental Diseases).

Group. (1)	For defective vision (excluding squint). (2)	For all other conditions recorded in Table IX A. (3)	Total. (4)
All Ages	25	28	50

TABLE IX.

Classification of the Nutrition of Children inspected during the year.

Number of Children Inspected	A. (Excellent)		B. (Normal)		C. (Slightly Sub-normal)		D. (Bad)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
892	169	18.94	710	79.60	13	1.46	—	—

TABLE X.

Return of all Exceptional Children in the area on the 31st December, 1940.

(*NOTE :—The definitions for the purposes of this Table are the same as those shown in Table III of the statistics for Elementary Schools.*)

BLIND CHILDREN.

Nil.

PARTIALLY SIGHTED CHILDREN.

Nil.

DEAF CHILDREN.

Nil.

PARTIALLY DEAF CHILDREN.

Nil.

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

Nil.

EPILEPTIC CHILDREN.

Nil.

PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

A.—TUBERCULOUS CHILDREN.

I.—Children Suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Nil.

II.—Children Suffering from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Nil.

B. DELICATE CHILDREN.

At Certified Special Schools	At Secondary Schools	At other Institutions	At no School or Institution	Total
—	3	—	—	3

C. CRIPPLED CHILDREN.

Nil.

D. CHILDREN WITH HEART DISEASE.

Nil.

CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM MULTIPLE DEFECTS.

Nil.

TABLE XI.

Return of Defects Treated during the Year ended 31st December, 1940.

TREATMENT TABLE.

Group I.—Minor Ailments (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Table XIII).

DISEASE OR DEFECT (1)	Number of Defects referred for Treatment (2)	Number of Defects treated, or under treatment, during the year.		
		Under the Authority's Scheme (3)	Otherwise (4)	Total (5)
SKIN—Ringworm, Scalp— (i) X-Ray Treatment	—	—
(ii) Others	—	—
Ringworm, Body	—	—
Scabies	—	—
Impetigo	3	3
Other Skin Disease	—	—
MINOR EYE DEFECTS— (External and other, but excluding cases falling in Group II)	4	4
MINOR EAR DEFECTS	6	6
MISCELLANEOUS— (e.g., minor injuries, bruises, sores, chil- blains, etc.)	3	3
Total	...	16	7	9
				16

Group II.—Defective Vision and Squint (excluding Minor Eye Defects treated as Minor Ailments—Group I).

DEFECT OR DISEASE (1)	Number of Defects referred for Treatment (2)	No. OF DEFECTS DEALT WITH.			
		Under the Authority's Scheme. (3)	Submitted to refraction by private practitioner or at Hospital apart from the Authority's Scheme. (4)	Otherwise (5)	Total (6)
Errors of Refraction (including Squint)	63	55	5	2	62
Other Defect or Disease of the Eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	63	55	5	2	62

Total number of children for whom spectacles were prescribed:

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme 24
 (b) Otherwise 7

Total number of children who obtained or received spectacles :

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme 24
 (b) Otherwise 7

Group III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

Referred for treatment	Number of Defects.													
	Received Operative Treatment													
	Under the Authority's Scheme, in Clinic or Hospital				By Private Practitioner or Hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme				Total				Received other forms of treatment	Total number treated
28	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	5	20
	—	—	13	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	13	1		

- (i) Tonsils only.
- (ii) Adenoids only.
- (iii) Tonsils and adenoids.
- (iv) Other defects of the nose and throat.

Group IV.—Orthopaedic and Postural Defects.

Number of Children Treated.						
Under the Authority's Scheme			Otherwise			Total
Residential treatment with education	Residential treatment without education	Non-residential treatment at an orthopaedic clinic	Residential treatment with education	Residential treatment without education	Non-residential treatment at an orthopaedic clinic	
—	—	20	—	—	3	23

TABLE XII.

Dental Inspection and Treatment.

(1) Number of children who were :—			(2) Half-days devoted to :—		
(a) Inspected by the Dentist :—			Treatment ... 62 Inspection ... 14 } Total 76		
Aged :—			(3) Attendances made by Children for treatment ... 498		
Routine Age Groups	4	—	13	—	171
	5	—	4	14	162
	6	—	20	15	145
	7	—	30	16	87
	8	—	31	17	43
	9	—	36	18	22
	10	—	36	19	—
	11	—	55	20	—
	12	—	162	—	—
				Total	1213
Specials	...	...	30		
			Grand Total	...	1243
(b) Found to require treatment ... 643			(4) Fillings :—		
(c) Actually treated ... 207			Permanent Teeth 305 Temporary Teeth 7 } Total 312		
			(5) Extractions :—		
			Permanent Teeth 179 Temporary Teeth 81 } Total 260		
			(6) Administrations of general anæsthetics for extractions ... 24		
			(7) Other Operations :—		
			Permanent Teeth 50 Temporary teeth — } Total 50		

NOTE.—In addition to the above inspections, 967 children were re-inspected during the year, and of those, 403 were found to require treatment.

TABLE XIII.

Uncleanliness and Verminous Conditions.

(i.) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
(ii.) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	741
(iii.) Number of individual children found unclean...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
(iv.) Number of children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(v.) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :										—
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(b) Under School Attendance Byelaws	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

TABLE XIV.

Summary of Treatment of Defects.

DISEASE OR DEFECT	NUMBER OF DEFECTS			
	REFERRED FOR TREATMENT	TREATED		
		UNDER LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY'S SCHEME	OTHERWISE	TOTAL
Minor Ailments	...	16	7	9
Visual Defects	...	63	55	7
Defects of Throat and Nose	...	28	15	5
Dental } Referred by Dentist	...	643	207	249
Defects } Referred by School M.O.	...	12	2	6
Other Defects	...	22	4	13
 Total	...	784	290	289
				579